United Nations E/CN.9/2013/2

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
14 February 2013

Original: English

Commission on Population and Development
Forty-sixth session
22-26 April 2013
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Report of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development on its intersessional meetings

I. Introduction

1. At its thirtieth session, in 1997, the Commission on Population and Development authorized its Bureau to hold intersessional meetings in preparation for its sessions on a yearly basis (E/1997/25, para. 52). The Commission subsequently stressed the importance of making available written reports on those meetings at the earliest opportunity (see Commission decision 2005/2) and requested its Bureau to meet as frequently as necessary in preparation for the annual sessions of the Commission (see Commission resolution 2006/1). In accordance with Commission resolution 2006/1, the Bureau held three meetings between September 2012 and January 2013. The first meeting was held at Headquarters on 19 September 2012. The second meeting was held in Chişinău, Republic of Moldova, on 16 January 2012, and the third meeting was held at Headquarters on 28 January 2013.

2. The first and third meetings of the Bureau were attended by Mr. Vladimir Lupan (Chair), Ms. Marianne Bibalou, Mr. Eduardo Jose de Vega, Mr. Matthias Schikorski and Mr. Jairo Rodríguez Hernández, representing Mr. Juan Carlos Alfonso. Present at the second meeting in Chişinău were Mr. Lupan, Ms. Bibalou, Mr. de Vega, Mr. Schikorski and Mr. Alfonso. Staff from the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs as well as representatives of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) were present at all meetings of the Bureau. In addition, Ms. Emer Herity, of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management attended both Bureau meetings that were held in New York.

3. The present report summarizes the discussions of the Bureau at those meetings, including the conclusions reached and the recommendations made.

* E/CN.9/2013/1.

13-23449 (E) 260213

Please recycle

II. Summary of the deliberations of the Bureau

A. Organization of work for the forty-sixth session of the Commission

4. The Bureau reviewed the organization of work for the forty-sixth session. It was decided that on Monday, 22 April, the first day of the resumed session, the slot between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. would be used for a presentation by a keynote speaker and that this would be followed by a slot for migrant representatives from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Following an innovative practice adopted during the forty-fifth session, the Bureau decided that the informal consultations on draft proposals would begin on the Thursday prior to the resumption of the session.

B. Keynote speakers

5. In its decision 2005/2, the Commission welcomed the format of inviting keynote speakers to address the sessions of the Commission, and requested the Bureau to make the necessary arrangements for their participation and to inform States members of the Commission accordingly. Pursuant to that decision, the Bureau decided that two expert keynote speakers would be invited to address the Commission on the special theme for the forty-sixth session, "New trends in migration: demographic aspects", and that one hour would be allotted for each speaker to make a presentation and to have an interactive dialogue with members of the Commission. The Bureau selected Mr. Graeme Hugo, Professor of Geography and Director of the Australian Population and Migration Research Centre at the University of Adelaide, to speak on "New trends in migration". The Bureau decided to invite a second expert to speak on the topic "Migration, gender and the family" and to organize an expert panel on "Migration and development", with the following three speakers: Mr. Aderanti Adepoju, Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration, University of Lagos, Nigeria; Ms. Marcela Cerrutti, Professor of Social Sciences at the National University of Luján, Argentina; and Mr. Marek Okólski, Professor of Economic Sciences and Head of the Centre of Migration Research at the University of Warsaw. As is customary, the Bureau recommended that the working group be adjourned during the presentations made by keynote speakers.

6. The Bureau also decided to include an additional speaker slot for two representatives of migrant groups on the first day of the resumed session in order to ensure that the Commission could benefit from the perspectives of migrants while it was considering the theme "New trends in migration". The Bureau considered that the presentations should be made early in the session in order to inform the deliberations held during the rest of the session.

C. Participation of relevant United Nations entities in the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Population and Development

7. The Bureau noted that the topic of the forty-sixth session was relevant to the work of many entities of the United Nations system. With this in mind, the Bureau requested that the Chair of the Commission encourage relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to participate in the forty-sixth session

and to invite them to consider organizing side events during the session. As at previous sessions of the Commission, the Bureau welcomed the involvement of UNFPA in organizing a side event for the session.

D. Adoption of PaperSmart services and communication of the Chair with members of the Commission

8. In line with the Secretary-General's joint objectives of increasing efficiency, reducing the carbon footprint of the Organization and increasing the provision of e-services to Member States, the Bureau decided to adopt the PaperSmart model used by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management for handling the documentation associated with the forty-sixth session of the Commission. The Bureau requested its Chair to write to all members of the Commission informing them of this decision and providing them with information on how to access preliminary versions of the documentation for the session. In addition, the Bureau requested its Chair to write to all members of the Commission emphasizing the desirability of having migrant representatives, as well as technical representatives, that is, specialists in migration, population and development and population policy, attend the forty-sixth session.

9. The Bureau also recommended that the Chair send an informational note to Member States that are not members of the forty-sixth session of the Commission to alert them of the dates and theme of the session, the decision on the adoption of the PaperSmart model for handling documentation and to provide them with information on how to access the documentation for the session.

E. General debate on the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in light of its twentieth anniversary

10. The Bureau recalled that on 22 December 2010, the General Assembly adopted resolution 65/234 on "Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014", in which it decided to extend the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014 and ensure its follow-up in order to fully meet its goals and objectives. In the same resolution, the Assembly also decided to convene a special session during the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly in order to assess the status of implementation of the Programme of Action and to renew political support for actions required for the full achievement of its goals and objectives.

11. In the same resolution, the General Assembly further decided that the Commission on Population and Development should convene an interactive discussion during its forty-seventh session on the assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action and called upon UNFPA, in consultation with Member States and in cooperation with all relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations, as well as institutions and experts, to undertake an operational review of the implementation of the Programme of Action on the basis of the highest quality data and analysis of the state of population and development, taking into account the need for a systematic, comprehensive and integrated approach to population and development

issues. In addition, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report based on that review to the Commission on Population and Development at its forty-seventh session.

12. In view of the decisions and guidance provided by the General Assembly, and noting the emphasis on the need for the effective participation and contribution of relevant actors of civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, in the special session, as well as in its preparation, the Bureau invited the Chair and the Bureau members of the forty-seventh session of the Commission to engage with non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council on ways to allocate the limited speaking slots for non-governmental organizations in order to ensure the effective participation and contribution of relevant actors of civil society.

F. Relationship between the Commission on Population and Development and the Economic and Social Council

13. The Bureau discussed ways to ensure the contribution of the Commission to the annual ministerial review conducted during the high-level segment of the annual meeting of the Economic and Social Council, which, in July 2013, will focus on the theme "Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals". The Bureau noted that chapter 12 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development is on "Technology, research and development", a subject that has never been a theme of a session of the Commission on Population and Development. The Bureau noted that it was important to increase the synergies between the work of the Commission and the annual ministerial review. To that end, the Bureau suggested that, as at previous sessions of the Commission, the Permanent Representatives of Member States planning to make national presentations at the annual ministerial review be invited to participate in the general debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2013 (item 5 of the agenda of the forty-sixth session) so that they might be able to discuss how population dynamics reduce or increase the challenge of "Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals".

14. The Bureau also endorsed the suggestion of the Chair of the Bureau that the President of the Economic and Social Council be invited to launch the discussion on agenda item 5, as had been done at prior sessions of the Commission. In addition, the Bureau endorsed the suggestion of the Chair that the Secretariat be invited to make a short presentation covering some of the key linkages between population dynamics and the theme for the annual ministerial review of 2013.

G. Resolutions and decisions

15. The Bureau recommended that the Commission consider adopting the following resolutions or decisions: (a) a decision on the draft agenda for its forty-seventh session; (b) a decision on the theme of the forty-eighth session; and

(c) a resolution on the special theme of the forty-sixth session, namely, "New trends in migration: demographic aspects".

16. As at previous sessions of the Commission, the Bureau had recommended that a working group be established at the start of the resumed forty-sixth session to discuss proposals that might result in the adoption of resolutions or decisions. The Bureau also recommended that the Chair of the Commission distribute initial drafts of resolutions and decisions in order to facilitate the deliberations of the working group and requested that the drafts be made available to members of the Commission and to the regional groups three weeks prior to the resumption of the forty-sixth session. Following the practice adopted in 2012, the Bureau also suggested that informal consultations on the draft resolutions and decisions begin during the week preceding the resumption of the forty-sixth session.

H. Briefing for members of the Commission

17. The Bureau recommended that, at least four weeks prior to the resumption of the forty-sixth session, the Director of the Population Division organize a briefing for delegations on the status of documentation for the session, the organization of work and the resolutions and decisions likely to be considered by the Commission.

18. The Bureau stressed the importance of the timely availability of documents for the forty-sixth session of the Commission in order to facilitate the preparation of statements by delegations. The Bureau endorsed posting advanced unedited versions of such documentation on the Internet in English.

III. Recommendations of the Bureau

19. **The Bureau recommended the adoption of the draft organization of work for the forty-sixth session of the Commission.**

20. **The Bureau decided that two keynote speakers, a panel of three experts and two migrant representatives would be invited to address the Commission on the special theme of the forty-sixth session, "New trends in migration: demographic aspects".**

21. **The Bureau recommended the adoption of the PaperSmart model for handling the documentation associated with the session.**

22. **The Bureau requested that the Chair of the Commission write to all members of the Commission informing them that the session will use the PaperSmart model for the handling of all documents and providing information on how to access preliminary versions of the documentation for the session. In addition, the Bureau requested its Chair to write to all members of the Commission stressing the desirability of having migrant representatives as well as technical experts as part of their delegations.**

23. **The Bureau requested that the Chair write to Member States that are not members of the forty-sixth session of the Commission to alert them of the dates and theme of the session and the decision on the adoption of the PaperSmart model for the handling of all documents, and to provide information on how to access preliminary versions of the documentation for the session.**

24. The Bureau, recalling General Assembly resolution 65/234, invited the Chair and Bureau members of the forty-seventh session of the Commission to engage with non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council intending to participate in the forty-seventh session on ways to allocate the limited speaking slots for non-governmental organizations to ensure the effective participation and contribution of relevant actors of civil society.

25. The Bureau decided to invite the President of the Economic and Social Council to address the Commission under item 5 of the provisional agenda of the forty-sixth session and to invite the Permanent Representatives of Member States making national presentations at the annual ministerial review in 2013 to participate in an interactive dialogue on the relevance of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development for the theme of the 2013 annual ministerial review. In addition, the Bureau decided to ask the Secretariat to prepare a brief presentation on some of the key linkages between population dynamics and the theme for the 2013 annual ministerial review.

26. The Bureau recommended that the Commission consider adopting a decision on the provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session, a decision on the theme for the forty-eighth session and a resolution on the special theme of the forty-sixth session, "New trends in migration: demographic aspects".

27. The Bureau recommended that a working group be established at the start of the resumed forty-sixth session of the Commission in order to discuss issues that might result in the adoption of resolutions or decisions and that the working group begin its work on the afternoon of the first day of the resumed session of the Commission. The Bureau further recommended that informal consultations on the draft resolution and decisions begin the week prior to the resumption of the Commission.

28. The Bureau requested that the Chair of the Commission distribute initial drafts of resolutions and decisions in order to facilitate the deliberations of the working groups, and that the drafts be made available to members of the Commission and to the regional groups three weeks prior to the resumption of the forty-sixth session. The Bureau also recommended that advance unedited versions of official documents be posted on the Internet in English only.

29. The Bureau recommended that, at least four weeks prior to the resumption of the forty-sixth session of the Commission, the Director of the Population Division organize a briefing for delegations on the status of documentation for the session, the organization of work and the resolutions and decisions likely to be considered by the Commission.

30. The Bureau also requested the Chair of the Commission to encourage relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to participate in the forty-sixth session and to invite them to organize side events during the session.